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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 22, 1920

WHOLE NUMBER 2131

Municipal Work To Be Extensive

City Preparing for the Additional Construction of 33,000 Feet of Eight-Inch Sewer Mains and Manholes to Present System.

WORK TO START IN SPRING

Desirability of Municipal Hospital is Receiving Attention of City Commission.

Indications are beginning to point towards 1920 as being a year that will be marked by wonderful progress in municipal affairs in the City of Alma, which should prove a wonderful aid in stimulating the growth of the community in the future, a growth that should continue in the next few years as rapidly as the growth that Alma has experienced within the last few years.

The first big indication of these improvements was given this week when the city commission gave William E. Reynolds, city manager, power to ask for bids for thousands of dollars worth of sewer construction in Alma this spring.

This work had been contemplated for some few years past, and a bond issue had been voted for the work, but because of the war and the necessity of making some changes to meet the requirements of the state board of health, the work was held up. An O. K. was given to the work about a week ago by the state board of health, showing that City Manager Reynolds had complied with all of the desires of the state.

Bids for the sewer construction are to be received on February 2, and will cover approximately 33,000 feet of eight inch sewer construction. One hundred and sixteen manholes are also to be built in connection with the work.

A municipal hospital is also being given some discussion, although plans for such a proposition are far from worked out. It is known that Dr. I. N. Brainerd, Alma's veteran surgeon, is willing to sell his hospital and equipment to the city on very reasonable terms, and the city officials are looking into the matter with a view of ascertaining the desirability of acquiring the hospital.

In an interview yesterday Dr. T. J. Carney, who also conducts a private hospital here, stated that he favored such a plan, as do other physicians of the city. This week he purchased the old Abbott property at the corner of Wood and Downey streets for a hospital, as his lease on the Shepard place on South Woodworth avenue is about to expire, but said that this had been done in order that he might protect himself. He stated that he could not see why a municipal hospital could not be made to be a paying proposition.

If, after due investigation, the city officials find that it would be desirable for Alma to acquire the hospital, it is very probable that local people will be asked to pass upon the matter at a special election to bond for the money needed to purchase the hospital and equipment.

DOUBLE WEDDING

Interesting Event Was Held at the Presbyterian Church Saturday.

A very interesting and impressive service was held last Saturday evening at the Presbyterian church in the form of a double wedding ceremony performed under the auspices of the Salvation Army. Promptly at 8:00 Mr. Frank P. Smith sang the beautiful solo, "O Promise Me." He then played the wedding march and the bride party entered the church and seated themselves upon the platform which was decorated with white crepe paper streamers and over which was suspended a large white wedding bell. The contracting parties were Mr. George Clayton Cowles and Elsie Laura Rogers, attended by Chas. Rogers and Rosemond Black, and Mr. Samuel Vere Ferris and Claudia Pearl Deming attended by Mildred Cleveland and Olin Ferris. Miss Winifred Smith acted as flower girl and Mildred Black as ring bearer.

After a short address given by Rev. W. Gelston in which he extended a hearty welcome to the Salvation Army on behalf of the Presbyterian church, the solemn and impressive double Salvation Army service was read by Staff Captain Arthur Hopkins of Detroit, at the conclusion of which the two couples were pronounced by him to have been united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Following the Salvation Army custom, a number of speeches were then given by the two brides, the grooms and several others after which Capt. McClain announced that congratulations were in order and the wedding party and their friends went to the Salvation Army hall where a reception was held.

The brides were attired in the regular Salvation Army uniforms and carried roses. The church was filled to overflowing with a large congregation who came to witness the event.

Douglas Fairbanks in "When the Clouds Roll By"—Idolhour Wednesday and Thursday.—adv.

Best ice cream. DeLuxe.—77-44-c

INVESTIGATING MATTER

Gas Company Proposition Up Before the Commission Again Tuesday.

The proposition put before the city commission a week ago by R. B. Wagner, manager of the Gratiot County Gas company, to secure to the company a guaranteed return of seven per cent so that it can borrow funds with which to better its service and increase its capacity, was before the commission again Tuesday evening for a long discussion, but no action was taken in the matter pending an investigation of the company's balance sheets, etc., by William E. Reynolds, city manager.

There seems to be an undercurrent among the members of the commission that if the condition of the company is such as claimed for it, it should be afforded the relief that is really needed, because to some extent at least a public utility that can meet the requirements, is one of the demands of a progressive rapidly growing city.

Manager Reynolds is studying the matter closely and it is expected that his findings will soon be laid before the city commission, when action is expected to be taken in regard to the desires of the company.

TRUSTEES OF ALMA COLLEGE MET HERE

Student Control Was Adopted; Tuition and Room Rents Raised at Meeting.

The midyear meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alma college was held Tuesday in the president's office in the administration building, the most important features of which were the granting of a ten per cent increase in salaries to the instructors in the institution and raising of tuition fees.

Last year the trustees gave the instructors an increase of twenty per cent in salaries, and the total increase, which has been granted to them since 1916 is reported by President H. M. Crooks to be approximately forty-five per cent.

The trustees also voted to increase the tuition \$20.00 per year, effective next September. This will make the tuition at the college \$80.00 per year. It was also voted to increase the room rent \$15.00 per year. It was felt that these raises must be made, because of existing high prices, which the college also is forced to contend with.

The student-faculty plan of self-government in campus activities, which had been recommended to the trustees for their consideration by the faculty and was given a thoughtful consideration. The trustees finally adopted the plan for student control in these activities, with a trial period of two years, at which time a report as to the results is to be submitted to the trustees upon which a decision as to the permanency of it.

The trustees also approved of the plans for the joint publicity and financial campaign in 1920, in which Adrian, Albion, Hillsdale, Hope, Kalamazoo and Alma colleges are to take part. By their action Tuesday Alma college becomes the first to approve of the plan. The trustees appointed President H. M. Crooks of the college and Professor Lyman of Ypsilanti Normal, a trustee of the college, as the Alma representatives on the inter-college committee.

The resignation of John F. Seeley of Caro and Rev. Daniel Stalker of Calumet as trustees were accepted. The former has been in ill health for some time, while the latter has moved from Calumet and out of the state.

The resignation of C. B. Chatfield of Bay City, treasurer of the college since 1911, was also accepted, but he is to continue the duties until a new treasurer is secured. There is no decision yet as to who may be appointed and it may be some few months yet, before Mr. Chatfield is relieved of the duties.

The officers of the Board of Trustees were elected at the Tuesday meeting as follows: chairman, Dr. James Barkley of Detroit; vice chairman, Francis King of Alma; secretary and assistant treasurer, Albert P. Cook of Alma; treasurer, C. B. Chatfield of Bay City.

The trustees who attended the session were J. W. S. Pierson of Stanton, Rev. Louis Brooks of Mason, Professor Kendall Brook of Mt. Pleasant, M. W. Tanner of Saginaw, C. B. Chatfield of Bay City, W. O. Hughes, Jr. of Grand Rapids, Dr. James M. Barkley of Detroit and Francis King and Lester A. Sharp of this city.

SEEKS ELECTRIC SERVICE

A petition, said to have been signed by a large number of residents of Harrison has been sent to the Central Michigan Light & Power company of this city, asking for an extension of the company's electric lines to that place.

Harrison has a municipal plant, which is furnishing both light and water to the Clare county community, but judging from the petition sent to the local concern, the municipal plant is not a paying proposition.

Women! Are your husbands' too perfect? See "Fair and Warmer" Regent theatre, Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25.—adv.

WILL CONSTRUCT A NEW BUILDING

G. V. Wright Has Purchased Masonic Lot on State Street and Will Build.

WILL ERECT FUNERAL HOME

Structure Is to Be Two Stories and Basement in Height and 14x60 Feet.

Announcement was made this morning of the purchase of the Masonic lot on State street by G. Vernon Wright, well known furniture dealer and funeral director, and the construction, in the very near future, of a modern two story combined residence and funeral home on the site.

Not only will the building, which will be 44 by 60 feet, two stories and a basement in height, be used for a funeral home and residence, but will also contain a chapel for the holding of funeral services. The building is to be constructed of brick and concrete and will give to Alma the most modern establishment of the kind in this section of the state.

In making the announcement this morning, Mr. Wright stated, that it was his intention of retaining the present location in the Merchants' block for his furniture store.

The plans for the building call for the main office, a private office, a chapel, and also the living rooms of the residence on the first floor of the structure.

On the second floor will be located a room for casket display, and two smaller rooms for the receiving of embalmed bodies. The sleeping rooms of the residence portion of the building will also be located on the second floor.

The basement will contain a modern vapor heating plant, and fuel bunkers, a first class casket trimming room and the embalming room.

The plans call for an elevator, which will connect the two floors and the basement of the building. In making the announcement of his intention to construct a modern funeral home it was pointed out that the growth of his combined business in the present location had been such that the present quarters were too small to permit a continuance of both the furniture business and the undertaking business in the one location. It was also stated that between \$20,000 and \$25,000 would probably be expended in the construction of the modern building, which Mr. Wright expects to have here in the near future.

BOYS' CONFERENCE

Annual Y. M. C. A. Event to Be Held in St. Louis Next Week.

The annual older boys conference of the Gratiot County Y. M. C. A. will be held on January 30-31 and February 1 in St. Louis, to which duly elected delegates from the various Y. M. C. A. units, Sunday school class, boy scout troop or school church of the county between the ages of fourteen and eighteen are eligible.

The program for the three day conference is expected to be as follows:

Friday Afternoon
Local arrangements.
Assignment of places.
Open meeting, James Bernard presiding.

Friday Night
Banquet.
Welcome—Kemp, St. Louis mayor.
Welcome—Bernard.
Response—Lionel Mayle.
Address—Balkie.
Music—Yinger Quartet.
Address—Rev. Steadman.

Saturday Morning
Conference Songs—Perrigo leading.
Devotions.
Report State Boys' Conference—Arthur Smith.
Business meeting.

Address—O. L. Smith.
Saturday Afternoon
Song Service—Perrigo leading.
Devotions.
Address—J. A. Hymes.

Sight Seeing Trip.
Basket Ball tournament.
Saturday Evening

Banquet.
Address—Choosing Life Work—R. L. Flynn, Detroit.
Personal interviews of boys by leaders.

Sunday Forenoon
Church and Sunday school with Host.

Sunday Afternoon
Song Service—Perrigo leading.
Devotions, Special music.
Address—J. A. Hymes.

Sunday Evening
Union meeting.

There is no registration fee, but every delegate must remit \$1.00 to apply on his banquet tickets. The balance, 25c or 50c will need to be paid on arrival in St. Louis. Then the tickets for both of the banquets will be delivered.

Basket Ball tournament will be very interesting. There will be two classes participating all under 125 pounds average, and all over 125 pounds. Pennants will be given to the winners in each class.

Buy the best. Buy DeLuxe.—77-44-c

ORATORICAL CONTESTS

Freshmen at College Win Both Men's and Women's Contests.

The men's and women's oratorical contests at Alma college this year, to choose representatives to represent the institution at the Michigan Inter-collegiate Oratorical contest to be held in March, had an unusual ending this year, freshmen winning both contests, and defeating the winners of these contests a year ago.

Miss Alberta Bowman of this city, former high school orator, won the women's contest with the oration, "Education a Means of Americanization," defeating Miss Blanche Mashin of Chicago, winner of the honors last year. Miss Mashin took second place with the oration, "The Voice of Freedom."

J. Thomas Dasef of Stanton, with the oration, "The Marks of a Man," was given first in the men's contest held Tuesday evening. Lyle De Barnhart of Berrien Springs, Alma's representative of a year ago, was given second place with the oration, "The Return of the Mayflower."

Professor Cornelius, Superintendent of Schools Kelder, Rev. Gelston, C. H. Goggin, and Miss Carroll were the judges in the women's contest. The judges for the men's contest were Dr. Brokenshire, Supt. J. W. Kelder, Rev. Gelston, C. H. Goggin, and Miss Carroll.

PAINTING OF WRIGHT GIVEN TO COLLEGE

Beautiful Picture Was Unveiled at Appropriate Exercises Held Tuesday A. M.

Tuesday forenoon in the chapel of Alma college, at a simple, but none the less impressive service, a large painting of the late Ammi W. Wright, one of the founders of the institution, and the greatest benefactor in Alma's history, was unveiled, by Dr. J. T. Ewing, senior member of the faculty.

The chapel was well crowded for the exercises, practically every student of the institution, the faculty members, members of the board of trustees, and numerous friends of the college, who live in Alma being present.

Following the opening song of the service and the invocation by Rev. Louis Brooks of Howell, member of the board of trustees, President H. M. Crooks told of the way in which it happened that Mrs. J. H. Lancashire, daughter of the benefactor of the college, had come to make the splendid gift to the institution. He stated that the picture is a production of a painting in the dining room of the Lancashire home in New York City, and that the figure in the painting is just 1/4 of an inch larger than the one which is in the home of the donor. The gift is a painting by I. M. Gauguin of Boston, Mass., and it is understood to be valued at over \$2,000, although this latter proposition was not made public.

President H. M. Crooks called upon Lester A. Sharp, an associate with Mr. Wright for many years, for a short address in regard to the benefactor of this institution, and he paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the man, who had done so much in aiding "Michigan Presbyterians in founding a college, and in making Alma a worth while community. Hastily Mr. Sharp slipped over the years of Mr. Wright's business career, bringing out some of the great enterprises which he had made possible, his success in lumbering, in railroads, in mercantile enterprises, etc., to bring out the keen business judgment that was displayed, the clear judgment that he had for weighing men, whom he used as his lieutenants in business affairs, the way that he guarded his good name, his kindness, and his philanthropy.

Dr. James M. Barkley, chairman of the board of trustees of the college was then called upon for a short address. He stated that the gift to the college was a display of affection for the institution for which Mr. Wright had done so much. He spoke of the efforts that were being made to secure funds, notably for a science hall for the college, funds which are being sought not only in Michigan but in all parts of the country. He stated that Michigan, fourth among the states in education must do something through its people for educational institutions before sought for aid from the outside would be available.

In closing his address he called attention to the great demand that there was in the world today for trained men and women, to regenerate the world, and that it was incumbent on the youth of America to answer this call for regeneration.

This was followed by the unveiling of the painting by Dr. J. T. Ewing, after which the exercises were closed by a prayer by Rev. Barkley.

Good byes and good wishes were exchanged at the hotel and the launching of the city of Alma was an affair of history—long to be remembered with pleasure and pride.

The ship, which is representative of the fabricated type, was towed immediately after the launching to the fitting pier where it is expected that the ship will remain for several weeks before leaving on her sea trials. The ship will then be turned over to the United States Shipping Board, all members of which were present at the launching in company with the Alma delegation and other notables. The United States Shipping Board in turn will allocate the ship to some American steamship line for operation.

The forty ships which the Merchant Shipbuilding Corporation, agent is building for the U. S. Shipping Board, are what are known as the fabricated type, that is, the plates which enter into the construction of the hulls were rolled to the proper contour and holes correctly punched at the steel mills, possibly hundreds of miles distant, from information supplied by blueprints. The fabricated ship was a war-time expedient to reduce the construction formerly required, and at the same time render it possible to place the ships in operation months ahead of the time ordinarily required by the great shipyards which the government developed on the Atlantic seaboard, the Harriman plant being one of these.

The fire department was called to the home of C. G. Falor on East Superior street Sunday evening, where a blaze had started in the basement from some unknown cause. By the time the department arrived on the scene, the fire had gained a good headway, going up through the partitions into the attic. It required some little time to extinguish the flames, with a damage to the house and furniture, which is estimated at \$2,200.

S. S. "City of Alma" Modern Type of Ship

Months of Time Saved in Construction of Fabricated Ship; Plates Being Rolled to Proper Contour at Mills and Punched.

LAUNCHING WAS BIG EVENT

Members of U. S. Shipping Board and Other Prominent People Were Present.

The launching of the "S. S. City of Alma" took place on the time scheduled, 9:15 o'clock, Tuesday morning, January 13, at Bristol, Pa. The tide being the right height at that time necessitated the earliness of the hour.

The sponsor, Miss Esther Rhodes, and her party consisting of Mr. J. W. Almondy of the U. S. Emergency Fleet corporation at Philadelphia, Miss Stubbs from the same office, Lieut. T. Arnold Robinson of New York City, his friend, Lieut. D. Sullivan, from Fall River, Mass., Mayor Chas. R. Murphy and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Rhodes of Alma, left the Bellevue-Stafford hotel at 8 o'clock going by motor to Bristol, 25 miles away.

The weather was mild and pleasant and the delightful drive through the beautiful country surrounding Philadelphia was an auspicious beginning for the program that was to follow.

Arriving at Bristol the government officials of the shipyard met the party at the administration building and conducted them to the dry docks, where, at present, ten ships in various stages of construction are on the ways.

There were many exclamations of surprise and pleasure when the party realized that the ship looming above them painted a shade of battleship grey, decorated with flags and streamers, was the "City of Alma" and well may the citizens of Alma have pride in their namesake for "she is a goodly vessel" that looks as tho' she too "might laugh at all disaster and with wave and whirling vessel." Her length is 377 ft., 54 ft. wide, draft 25 1/2 ft., which places her in the 9000 tonnage class. She will ply between New York and South America.

A platform about 25 feet high, elegantly decorated with flags and bunting had been erected at the bow of the boat as she stood upon the ways. This the launching party ascended. The sponsor was presented with a beautiful bouquet of American beauty roses, tied with long ribbon streamers bearing the name S. S. City of Alma. Her picture alone, and then with the rest of the party was taken by the official government photographer.

Meanwhile below the workmen were busy with ax and saw and at a signal from the manager of the launching the party took their places. The sponsor raised the ribbon encased bottle which hung by red, white, and blue satin streamers from the bow and with a decisive blow sent the champagne splashing against the sides of the ship and with the words, "I christen thee City of Alma." The ship slowly and beautifully slipped quietly down the ways into the water amid the cheering and waving of hankchiefs.

Then the party was taken to the "wet basin" and on board a sister ship which would be completed and ready for service the following day. The inspection was most interesting showing what the "City of Alma" would be when finished.

Then back to the government building where a delicious luncheon was served in the official dining room. After which a somewhat different route the return drive to Philadelphia was made.

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Under this plan, plates are received ready for erection, although at the Harriman yard an extensive shop is maintained to take care of special plates and to bend the channels forming the side frames.

The vessels building at this yard are carriers of 8000 to 8900 dead weight of 417 ft., beam of 54 ft. and loaded draft of 25 ft. These are ships known as the 9000 ton class. Each is equipped with a reduction gear turbine of 3000 horsepower and a battery of three boilers. The ships embody the very latest ideas in design and construction. The quarters for both officers and crew are especially commodious and convenient, the heating, lighting and sanitary features being in harmony with the latest and most approved practice. In their accommodations for the crews, these ships, in common with all other ships which have been built for the U. S. Shipping Board, offer a vast improvement over those constructed before the war and are quite palatial in comparison with the quarters provided by many of the older ships flying foreign flags.

However, the greatest departure of these ships from standard practice lies in the fact that their boilers are equipped to burn oil instead of coal, although they are readily convertible into the coal burning type should it ever be desired to make change. This was another war-time departure aimed to increase the carrying capacity of the ships and at the same time decrease the time usually required to refuel, oil being taken aboard much more quickly and conveniently than coal. The oil is stored in water-tight compartments forming the bottom of the ship and ordinarily filled with water for ballast purposes. The usual coal bunker space is thus available for cargo storage.

Although this was a war-time measure, so successful has it turned out in practice that the oil-burning ship undoubtedly will largely replace the coal burner. Oil fueling stations have been or are being rapidly established in all portions of the world so that it is possible for a ship of this type to go practically anywhere. For instance, the S. S. "Costigan," built at the Harriman yard, and now operated by the Independent Steamship Corporation of New York, left recently on a round-the-world voyage, via the Panama Canal.

Mayor Charles R. Murphy and Mr. Charles G. Rhodes of this city, who were present at the launching, were informed that the official blue prints of the vessel, and the official government photographs of the ship would be sent to the city, and it is expected that they will be on display in the library room of the city hall, when they are received. It is expected that it will be about a month before the pictures are ready for exhibition here.

INCREASE CAPITAL

Alma State Savings Bank Has Added To Its Capital.

The annual meeting of stockholders of the Alma State Savings Bank was held in the directors' rooms on January 13 and resulted in the increasing of the stock from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

The proceedings of this meeting are of more than usual interest to our citizens. Mrs. Mary C. Bahlke was chosen director in place of Dr. Bagley, whose absence from the city has disqualified him from service, but otherwise the old board was re-elected. Resolutions commendatory of Dr. Bagley's faithful service as a director since the organization of the bank in 1901 were adopted. This is the first time in the history of banks in this part of the State, if not in the State, that a woman has been elected a bank director. The stockholders seem to think that women are now coming into their own and if this is to be accepted as true, certainly no one of higher standing in this community could have selected than Mrs. Bahlke for the honor thus conferred upon her. Alma is always bound to respond to the demands of the times.

The capital stock of the bank was increased from forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). The review of the growth of this institution during the past year was marked and reflects great credit upon the management.

It has been found necessary to again increase the facilities of the institution, for the convenience of the general public and the operating force of the bank. The new vault will be built, extending across the entire south end of the banking room where the directors' and storage rooms are now located, the book-keeping department will be moved to the second floor of the building over the bank, to be reached by an inside stairway. The old vault will be torn down, the lobby will be enlarged and two additional windows will be installed in the fixtures so as to more fully segregate and simplify the work. Those improvements will be undertaken at once.